

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-20. (cancelled)

21. (new) A method of treating tinnitus comprising the steps of
applying to the tinnitus sufferer a first sound at a selected frequency, and
then applying to the tinnitus sufferer a succession of additional sounds at the
same frequency, each such additional sound being phase shifted with respect to the
first sound and with respect to the prior sound in the succession, the sounds in the
succession being incrementally spaced in phase over at least about a half wavelength
at the selected frequency.
22. (new) The method of claim 21 in which the selected frequency is at least
approximately equal to the frequency of the tinnitus sufferer's tinnitus.
23. (new) The method of claim 22 in which the frequency of the tinnitus sufferer is
determined by applying sound to the tinnitus sufferer at various frequencies until the
frequency of the applied sound corresponds at least approximately to the frequency of
the tinnitus.
24. (new) A method of treating tinnitus comprising the steps of
applying to the tinnitus sufferer a sound at a selected frequency,

then applying to the tinnitus sufferer a succession of at least several additional sounds at the same frequency, each such additional sound being phase shifted with respect to the prior sound, and the sounds of the succession being spaced in phase in substantially equal phase intervals, and

applying the sound at each of said phases for a fixed period of time.

25. (new) The method of claim 24 in which the frequency of the tinnitus sufferer is determined by applying sound to the tinnitus sufferer at various frequencies until the frequency of the applied sound corresponds at least approximately to the frequency of the tinnitus.
26. (new) The method of claim 24 wherein at least nine phases are applied over at least a half wavelength at the selected frequency.
27. (new) The method of claim 26 wherein a sound is applied at successive phase shifts, each of which is about twenty degrees at the wavelength of the selected frequency, the succession of additional sounds extending for at least about a half wavelength at the selected frequency.
28. (new) The method of claim 26 wherein the sound is applied for approximately 10 minutes at each of said phases.
29. (new) The method of claim 26 wherein at least thirty phases are applied over a period of at least about a half wavelength at the selected frequency.

30-31. (cancelled)

32. (new) A method of treating tinnitus comprising the steps of
applying to the tinnitus sufferer energy that varies substantially sinusoidally at
a selected audio frequency and at a particular phase, and
then applying to the tinnitus sufferer additional audio energy at the same
frequency, first at a predetermined phase shift with respect to the particular phase,
then at a succession of phases, in successive phase increments over at least about a
half wavelength at the selected audio frequency.
33. (new) The method of claim 32 wherein the different phases are at substantially
equally spaced intervals over the approximate half wavelength.
34. (new) The method of claim 32 wherein the amplitude of the applied audio energy is
substantially equal for each of the successive phase increments.
35. (new) The method of claim 32 further including the step of repeating the method
multiple times.
36. (new) The method of claim 32 wherein the audio energy is passed through a phase
shift network in order to produce the successive phase shifts.
- 37-46. (cancelled)

47. (new) Apparatus for treating tinnitus comprising
- first means for applying to the tinnitus sufferer a first sound at a selected frequency,
- second means for thereafter applying to the tinnitus sufferer a succession of additional sounds at the same frequency, each such additional sound being phase shifted with respect to the first sound and with respect to the prior sound in the succession, the phases being incrementally spaced over at least a half wavelength at the selected frequency.
48. (new) Apparatus as in claim 47 wherein the second means is for applying the sounds incrementally spaced in phase over at least a half wavelength at the selected frequency.
49. (new) Apparatus for treating tinnitus comprising
- a sound generator for producing sound at a selected audio frequency, and amplitude, and
- a phase shift network for shifting the phase of the produced sound at regular intervals, so that the sound is at one phase for a selected time period, and it then shifts in phase for each of successive intervals thereafter.
50. (currently amended) The apparatus in ~~claim 48~~ claim 49 further comprising
- a transducer for receiving the output signals from the sound generator and applying them to the tinnitus sufferer.

51. (currently amended) The apparatus in ~~claim 48~~ claim 49 wherein the phase shift network shifts the phase in equal increments at least nine times over about a half wavelength of the selected audio frequency.
52. (currently amended) The apparatus in ~~claim 48~~ claim 49 wherein the phase shift network changes the phase about every ten minutes.
53. (currently amended) The apparatus in ~~claim 48~~ claim 49 wherein the phase shift network shifts the phase in equal increments at least thirty times over about a half wavelength of the selected audio frequency.
54. (previously added) The apparatus in claim 53 wherein the phase shift network changes the phase about every minute.
55. (new) A method for the treatment of tinnitus comprising
applying a signal in the audio frequency range to a tinnitus patient,
varying the frequency of the signal and applying audio signals of different frequencies to the tinnitus patient, to enable the patient to select the frequency that he or she senses as being the frequency that corresponds to at least a major element of the patient's tinnitus,
varying the amplitude of the audio signal at the selected frequency and applying the signal to the patient at various amplitudes to enable the patient to select the amplitude that he or she senses as being approximately the amplitude of the patient's tinnitus,

using the resulting signal, at the patient selected frequency and amplitude, in the treatment of the patient's tinnitus by applying the resulting signal sequentially at different phase angles.

56. (new) The method of claim 55, wherein the step of applying a signal in the audio frequency range is repeated to enable the patient to select the frequency that corresponds to the frequency of at least a major element of the patient's tinnitus multiple times.

57. (new) The method of claim 56, further including averaging at least certain of the frequencies selected during the multiple times.

58. (new) The method of claim 55, wherein a signal at the selected frequency and amplitude is applied to the tinnitus patient over a predetermined period of time.

59. (new) The method of claim 58, wherein the signal is applied at different phase angles through at least 180 degrees of phase.

REMARKS

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified patent application as indicated above.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven L. Nichols', is written over a horizontal line.

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